

Daniel Todd Patterson to Andrew Jackson, January 7, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COMMODORE DANIEL T. PATTERSON TO JACKSON.

West Bank of the Mississippi, January 7, 1815.

Sir, I have receiv'd your message by Mr. Nevitt to drop the Louisiana down, I must unman all the guns on the Battery on this side, she is moreover the only magazine for this Battery and has on Board a very large quantity of Powder, which would be greatly endangered, by an exposure to the hot shot of the Enemy—the Field Pices from the Navy Yard will require some time to move down, at the magazine on this side the River there are two Brass 6. prs. Field pieces, with ammunition etc complete which could be brought down and placed at pleasure, by midnight, if you will send an order for them, I will send an officer to bring them. Col: Ross can give you every information respecting them, a portable 12 pd. would be of infinite service over here as with that Caliber I could fire directly into the Canal, and prevent their working during the day. be assured that no exertion on my part shall be wanting to defeat the attempts of the Enemy, but we are extremely weak on this side, require a strong reinforcement; with this I send for your perusal a letter from Lt. Cunningham at Plaquemine; I consider the firing of the Enemy this evening, as a feint to draw your attention from their operations below, which I apprehend they will carry into execution to-night; but I hope and trust they will meet defeat, come when they may, my Guns shall roar long and loud depend upon it! Very respectfully